



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

File No. 140

Senate Bill No. 911

Senate, March 23, 2009

The Committee on Government Administration and Elections reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING VOTERS WHO CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-59 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 Any elector whose name appears on any enrollment list or who has
4 made application for enrollment may, at any time, make a written
5 application, on an application form for admission as an elector, which
6 shall be signed by such elector, to either registrar for erasure of his
7 name from such list or for transfer of his name to the enrollment list of
8 another party. If an elector makes an application for erasure, his name
9 shall be erased from said enrollment list and, if a municipality is
10 having a primary in which unaffiliated electors are authorized to vote,
11 under section 9-431, such elector's name shall be placed on the list of
12 unaffiliated electors together with the date he is eligible to vote in a
13 primary. If an elector makes an application for transfer, his name shall

14 be transferred to the enrollment list of another party, together with the
 15 effective date of such transfer. Any elector whose name has been
 16 transferred from one enrollment list to another or who has applied for
 17 erasure or transfer of his name from an enrollment list shall not be
 18 entitled to participate or vote in a caucus or primary of [any] the party
 19 to which transfer was made or applied for, participate in the
 20 appointment of members to any board or commission that is political
 21 in nature, be appointed as a member of any board or commission that
 22 is political in nature or be entitled to the privileges accompanying
 23 enrollment in [any] the party to which transfer was made or applied
 24 for, for a period of [three months] one month from the date of the filing
 25 of his application for transfer or for erasure. Any elector who removes
 26 his name from the registry list and from an enrollment list in
 27 accordance with the provisions of section 9-35b shall not be entitled to
 28 enroll in any political party or vote in any primary for three months
 29 after such removal. The registrars of voters shall state, on the notice of
 30 acceptance sent under sections 9-23g, 9-19b and 9-19e, the date
 31 enrollment privileges for the party of transfer shall take effect, if
 32 delayed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	9-59
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GAE *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill shortens the period of time an elector who changes party affiliation must wait before enrollment privileges in the new party take effect and also allows the elector to retain privileges in the original party until that time. There is no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities associated with this bill.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 911*****AN ACT CONCERNING VOTERS WHO CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill (1) shortens, from three months to one month, the time electors who change party affiliation must wait before their enrollment privileges in the new party take effect and (2) allows the electors to retain their privileges in the original party until that time. By law, an elector who transfers party affiliation may not vote in a party's primary or caucus, or appoint members to any of its political boards or commissions or accept such an appointment until his or her enrollment privileges attach.

Under the bill, an elector who applies for transfer from one party's voter list to another's is entitled to enrollment privileges in the new party one month, rather than three months, after the date of application. In the meantime, such an elector retains his or her privileges in the original party.

Under current law, the elector gives up all enrollment privileges, including those in the original party, until the three months expire. At that point, his or her privileges in the new party attach.

The bill retains the three-month waiting period for electors who relinquish their voter registration and party enrollment. They may reapply to register to vote at any time, but must wait for three months after removal before party privileges attach. The bill also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 4 (03/06/2009)